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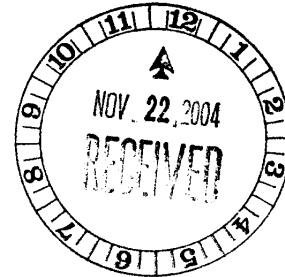
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November 22, 2004

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hon. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW (7th fl.)
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Secretary Williams:

This refers to STB Finance Docket No. 34337, Michael H. Meyer, Trustee in Bankruptcy for California Western Railroad, Inc. v. North Coast Railroad Authority d/b/a Northwestern Pacific Railroad, and the Complaint tendered for filing on May 22, 2003, and to STB Ex Parte No. 346 (Sub-No. 25), General Exemption Authority – Lumber or Wood Products, and the Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption tendered for filing on May 22, 2003.

The filings were accompanied by a letter request of Michael H. Meyer, Trustee for California Western Railroad, dated May 20, 2003, requesting the waiver of the \$6,000 and \$150 filing fees, respectively. By telephone calls to me thereafter, you advised me that Mr. Meyer's letter request was insufficient to permit the waiver of the filing fees and a more definitive statement of his inability to pay the filing fees would be required before his pleadings could be accepted for filing by the Board.

Enclosed is Mr. Meyer's sworn Affidavit, dated November 19, 2004, in which he states that he does "not have the funds on hand to pay such [administrative] expenses" and that "[a]t this time, it is not possible to pay the filing fee and have the estate remain financially viable." He, accordingly, asks that payment of the filing fees be waived or deferred.

On behalf of California Western Railroad, Inc., I respectfully request that, based on Mr. Meyer's Affidavit, the filing fees be waived or deferred and the pleadings accepted for filing by the Board.

Ten copies of this letter and its attachment are enclosed to permit your circulation of it.

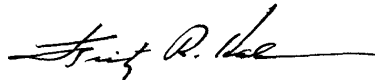
Hon. Vernon A. Williams
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An additional copy of this letter is enclosed for you to stamp to acknowledge your receipt of it.

By copy of this letter, service is being effected upon Mr. Douglas M. Christy, Executive Director of Northwest Pacific Railroad.

If you have any question concerning the foregoing which you believe I may be able to answer or if I otherwise can be of assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,


Fritz R. Kahn

enc.

cc: Mr. Douglas M. Christy
David N. Chandler, Esq.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Michael H. Meyer, after having been first duly sworn, declare and say:

1. That I am the duly appointed, qualified and acting Trustee in a Chapter 11 case pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of California, Bk. No. 02-12924, entitled "California Western Railroad, Inc."

2. A liquidating plan was confirmed by order of the Bankruptcy Court on April 13, 2004. Pursuant to the terms of the Plan, the railroad assets were sold. Two assets were retained for the benefit of the estate and creditors, i.e., the claim against the North Coast Rail Authority and the claim against Georgia-Pacific.

3. Pursuant to the terms of the Plan and the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code expenses of administration must be paid. I do not have the funds on hand to pay such expenses.

4. The funds on hand will do little other than pay the mandated U.S. Trustee fees.

5. I believe that we will be able to either collect the filing fee from the responding party or from a third party upon assignment of the claim. At such time, the filing fee can be paid.


6. At this time, it is not possible to pay the filing fee

7. It is critical that the complaint be filed prior to December 3, 2004 due to the statute of limitations extension provided by the Bankruptcy Code and to preserve as much of the claim as is possible for the benefit of the estate and creditors.

Executed under penalty of perjury this 19 day of November,
2004 at Fresno, California.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
) ss.
COUNTY OF ~~SONOMA~~ *FRESNO*)

Angela Dorian
NOTARY PUBLIC

 ANGELA DORAN
Commission # 1458146
Notary Public - California
Fresno County
My Comm. Expires Dec 23, 2007